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Sen. Kuipers joins strong-marriage promotion effort

Lansing — Sen. Wayne Kuipers today joined fellow Michigan lawmakers in announcing a broad, bipartisan package of legislation designed to prepare couples for stronger marriages and, in case of divorce, lessen the negative effect on children.

“Strong healthy marriages help produce strong, healthy children and frequently result in fewer social problems,” Kuipers said. “But in cases in which a marriage falls apart, my bill helps protect children by requiring a parenting plan before the divorce is granted.”

Kuipers introduced Senate Bill 966 last week. The parents would work under the supervision of the court to create a parenting plan to ensure the needs of the children will continue to be met in the best interest of each child. It would detail custody arrangements and authority for making decisions regarding the children.

Other parts of the legislative package:

- Encourage premarital education or counseling;
- Allow a clergy member to continue to legally offer marriage counseling after retirement;
- Provide a marriage preservation tax credit; and,
- Promote divorce-effects education programs.

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